

VOLUME 11 - SPRING 2010

PRESERVATION UPDATE!



HISTORIC PELLA TRUST

Annual Meeting

7:30 pm Thursday, April 22nd

at Pella's Opera House

Special guest Speaker: Brian Browning

Administrator at Terrace Hill

Brian Browning directs the preservation work done at Iowa's Governor mansion, Terrace Hill

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO HOME OWNERS WHO HAVE WORKED TO PRESERVE THEIR HISTORIC HOME OR BUSINESS, WITH THE INTEGRITY OF THE ERA IN WHICH THEIR HOUSE OR BUILDING WAS BUILT.

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE HOMES FOR THEIR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND PRESERVATION.

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AND VISIT WITH BRIAN BROWNING AFTER THE EVENING'S PROGRAM

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST BOARD LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THIS SPECIAL EVENING. IT IS OUR WAY TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Bob Zylstra retired from 3M and later from MtronPTI in South Dakota before he and his wife, Charlie moved to Pella in late 2008. Bob, a native of Pella; and Charlie, born in Mt. Pleasant, bought the Toom Farm at the base of Amsterdam Hill. The farm was established in 1867. The abstract shows that Jan Toom purchased the land from Hendrick P. Scholte for \$230. The property was described as lots 1,2,3,4 & 5 in the town of New Amsterdam.

When the Zylstra's started remodeling and reconstruction, they hired John Leusink as their architect. John is known for his historical reconstruction projects that keep the look and feel of the time when the home was originally built. Phil Slings did most of the construction work. Phil had the skill (and patience) to incorporate new materials and plans as part of an old house project. This is evident in the upstairs bedroom that was a loft in the original home. With time the floors wore and sagged into a slight buckling that did not interfere with the remodeling. These features were not "fixed" but maintained to keep the flavor of the original floor.

Before farming, Mr. Toom was the brick maker for Pella, with a kiln located east of the house. One kitchen interior wall showcases these original bricks when they were exposed by removing the old plaster. The Zylstra's remodeled the kitchen into a wonderful modern kitchen with all the amenities needed in today's new homes, but still maintaining many of the details from its original builder.

In the original home care was taken to preserve the original structure and details where possible. The floors in what was the original living room, now the Zylstra's dining room, were salvaged from the kitchen. Some of the wall and ceiling colors were matched from an old paint sample taken from the walls.

The house started as a simple 2 room brick house with a loft. The first addition was a wing added to the west, probably built in the 1880's. Porches flanked this addition with one on the north and one on the south. The north porch was later converted to a storage room and is now a hallway. The hallway graciously connects the old original home to the new spacious family room added by Bob and Charlie. The next addition with a summer kitchen built on the west end of this wing. A north extension was added to the house in the early 1900's. A porch and patio extend from this extension to the 'new' house which has a large family room, bedroom and laundry on the main floor. A centerpiece to this family room is the fireplace that has a mantle made from one of the original logs used in construction of the original house. Charlie has added simple but elegant decorating touches throughout their home. One especially beautiful blue and white delft chandelier from Belgium hangs over the dining table.

Written by Ellie Gosselink

The original barn still stands as a grand addition to this lovely home. The barn is home to many bats and the Zylstra's are working to remove them in a safe "bat friendly" process. This structure has weathered the ages of many years, as one can see when driving past the farm.

Historic Pella Trust wants to congratulate Bob and Charlie Zylstra on their efforts to incorporate the old original into their beautiful fully modern home. We hope that it is an inspiration to others to preserve more of the beautiful older homes in Pella, instead of building new.



View of the original 1867 house now restored



Original Barn.



Inside view of restored second floor loft in original portion of the Zylstra's home.

Additional photos of the Bob and Charlie Zylstra Home



View from the kitchen looking at the original house back stairs. Note the original brick wall made from bricks fired in the kiln operated by Mr. Toom in the 1800's. Through the door is the front room of the original home, now the dining room



One of the two main rooms in the original home, now the Zylstra's dining room. Note the imported Belgium Delft chandelier.



Remodeled kitchen created from the first addition added to the two room home in the 1880's. Photo taken from dining room door looking towards the great room addition added by the Zylstra's.



Fireplace in the great room addition. The mantel is made from one of the original logs used in building the first house in 1867.

PELLA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

Pella Community Foundation's Grant provided Historic Pella Trust with funds to invest into our Photographic Archival Project

Historic Pella Trust is embarking upon our Photographic Archival Project. Thanks to a grant from the Pella Community Foundation, the Trust will be scanning high resolution historic photos of Pella's past.

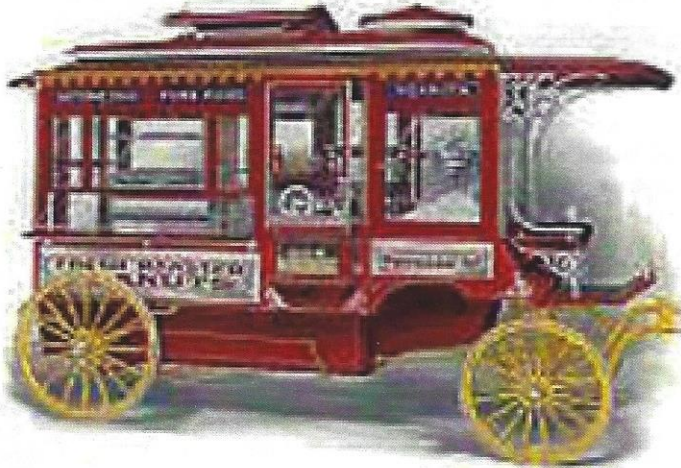
We are putting out the call to Pella residents and other who may have old photos (or negatives) of buildings, street scenes, church or community activities, plus any other items of historic interest. We will scan the photographs and return them. We will also accept original photos and negatives as a permanent donation.

HPT hopes to build a large archive of digital historic photos that will be available for sharing with interested individuals and organizations.

Additionally, we will be needing individuals who are interested in learning the scanning and editing process and donating their time to help build this archive. Interested individuals do not have to have experience, as training will be available. What a great way to contribute to historic preservation in Pella!

If you have old photos to loan for this worthwhile project, or would like to volunteer, please contact any Historic Pella Trust board member or call Ellie Gosselink at 628-8174.

KLEIN'S HOEK VOOR
HISTORIC INFORMATIE
BY BOB KLEIN



Horse-drawn Popcorn Wagon in Downtown Pella in Early 1900s

Written by Bob Klein

As a youngster I was always very much interested in mechanical things, and a good example of this was the popcorn wagon that stood in downtown Pella for many years in the summer time. It was horse-drawn and it used steam for the turning of all the machines and for the popcorn popping and for the roasting of peanuts and was certainly a very interesting operation. I can still remember as a very young kid in the early 1920's, my grandfather took me to watch the operation and of course, the smells were wonderful. I became enthralled with the machine. It had a kerosene boiler on the side of the machine that was used to generate the steam for the steam engine. It had an intriguing figure of a clown that was at the end of the drive shaft of the steam engine and it simulated the clown turning the steam engine.

The popcorn wagon was beautifully decorated with stained glass windows along the roofline and it had a pair of shafts to be used with the horse to take the popcorn wagon from its summer resting place to a barn at the south end of Broadway, where it was stored for the winter months and brought out again in the spring. I can remember what a gala occasion it was when it started its first load of popcorn and peanuts of the season

....continued on the following page...

Horse-drawn Popcorn Wagon in downtown Pella in Early 1900s – Page 2 continued

The popcorn wagon was a product of the C. Cretors Company of Chicago. In 1893 Charles Cretors created a steam powered machine that could roast 12 pounds of peanuts, 20 pounds of coffee, popcorn and bake chestnuts as well. Cretors' machine design offered several advantages over the hand-operated process. First as a machine, it made operation more predictable and it provided an attraction for both the retailer and the customer. There was the novelty of the steam engine, the Tosty Rosty Man, a small mechanical clown that acted as a merchandiser for the machine.

Charles Cretors took his new popcorn wagon to the Midway of Chicago's Columbian Exposition in 1893 and introduced the new corn product to the public. The smell of roasting peanuts and of hot buttered corn being popped in its seasoning right before the buyers eyes, were enough to attract attention and ultimately sales.

By 1900, Cretors introduced the Special – the first large horse-drawn popcorn wagon. It was an immediate success. Three variations of this wagon were created and one of them, the Model D Wagon, was the one that was that stood for many years during the summer months on the corner of Main and Franklin Streets. It was only moved to store it for the winter and also it was used for the Old Pella Fair as a concession wagon.

The problem I had was that I was so interested in the machine that when the students, members of this family that owned this machine, went away to school, the popcorn wagon was left in a barn and did not appear in downtown Pella anymore. This machine was so intriguing that as a freshman in college (this would be in 1934), I decided that it should be part of the Pella scene and I thought I would try to buy it and restore it and run it again. Figuring that many young people would be interested, and actually the older people also, because they consumed a lot of popcorn on Saturday night when they attended the band concert. So I contacted the lady who owned the machine, and whose children ran the machine for many years. I went to see her to see if I could buy it. I wondered at the time whether she didn't think that I was one of those college students that had no money anyway and that I couldn't pay anything for the machine. This in a sense was true, except that I did have a grandfather who really was my banker. I figured if it wasn't too much, I would be able to buy the popcorn wagon. However, she was very adamant about it, said it was not for sale, never would be, because perhaps the kids would come back in the summer time and run the machine. They may have done that for a couple years.

After several years the popcorn wagon was moved to its storage location for the winter months, but not moved back out in the spring, because they quit running the machine. It was left outside, not inside the barn, and I went to see it regularly, but it deteriorated very rapidly, and the first thing that happened was the wheels started to rot and they rotted down to the hubs. This was very disturbing to me because buggy wheels, even though they were plentiful in those days, to get the ones like on this machine would be very difficult, so I pursued again, to try and buy it. I was, of course, given the same answer, this time as I had the first time. But I was very persistent, and I went back later on to see if I could change her mind. She became very irritated and said that's the last she was going to talk to me because the

Horse-drawn Popcorn Wagon in Downtown Pella in Early 1900s – page 3continued

Machine was not for sale. So I gave up in disgust because there was no way I could make a better approach but I did go and take a look at the machine on several different occasions and it continued to deteriorate.

The wheels started to rot on the top half, like they did on the bottom half and it finally rested on the hubs of the wheels on the ground and of course, it wasn't long before the hubs began to decay. The youngsters in the neighborhood practiced their throwing arms with rocks against the windows of the popcorn wagon, including the stain-glassed window. They were nearly all broken out. The paint started to come off and since there was a lot of wood used in the manufacturing of the popcorn wagon, it started to deteriorate rapidly. It was a sad thing when I went to see it several times in the wintertime, covered with about two feet of snow, and there was the popcorn wagon, slowly deteriorating and rusting and rotting into the ground.

After a while, this home was sold and I knew the fellow who bought the place and I thought, well, I could buy what's left of it. Maybe I can fix it up. So I went to Henry and he said, "Oh, gosh, we cleaned up the place last week and we took the wagon to the dump, because there was nothing much left of it." So that took care of my wishes as far as owning a popcorn wagon.

I distinctly recollect the operators of the machine out along the shady side of the machine, where they would sit while the peanuts were roasting and the popcorn was being made because the exterior of the popcorn wagon became almost unbearably hot because of the boiler and steam engine and the action of the machine. Also, they had a broom handy to sweep up the popcorn and the peanut hulls that were spilled around the wagon because the city frowned upon the waste material that was scattered around the wagon during business hours. I also remember how happy I was when the popcorn wagon was hitched to a horse and pulled uptown for its summer duties. It was a gala occasion! In its later years of operation it was converted to electricity, which had arrived in Pella, and was reliable and it ended the hazard of the kerosene burner and the danger of fire, but it didn't have the romantic connection because it was no longer powered by the steam engine.

I did become acquainted with a gentleman who owned the little steam engine that they probably sold to him and he promised that he would sell to me, but we never got around to my buying the steam engine. It was a very clever little steam engine and was a joy to behold when it was running properly. They did not sell much of the rest of the machine. There certainly was value in the windows and the running gear, which was as I recall, sort of like a spring wagon, with the operator in the back. I had many a wild moment thinking how nice it would be if I would become a popcorn millionaire because I ran a popcorn wagon! Who knows – it might have happened – although I don't know when you sell peanuts for 5 cents a bag and popcorn for 5 cents a bag, which included the butter of course! It was fun to dream anyway – and that was one of the things that didn't work out and I regret to this day!

Letter from the President!

Dear Friends of Historic Preservation,

After an unusually harsh winter, it is great to have some warm sunny weather to help us get outside and get some spring cleaning done. With spring comes the annual program for Historic Pella Trust. It will be April 22nd at the Pella Opera House at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker this year will be Brian Browning who is the Administrator for Terrace Hill, which is a National Historic Landmark and the Iowa Governor's Residence. Brian will talk about preservation philosophy in the context of Terrace Hill. What was done, why it was done, how it worked or how it could have been done better, basically his philosophical approach to Historic Preservation using the work at Terrace Hill as an example of practical application. It will be accompanied with pictures in a power point presentation.

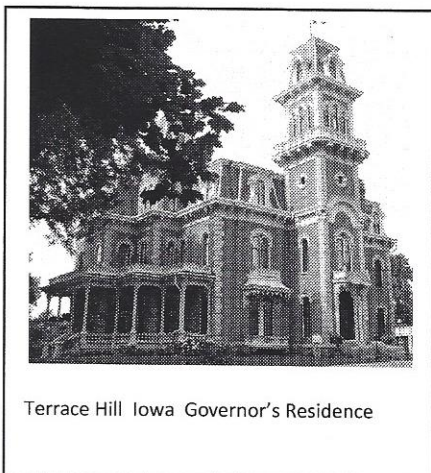
We will be presenting preservation awards to homeowners who have done outstanding jobs maintaining the historic integrity of their homes. There are also several homes that we will present Pella Historic Landmark plaques to.

The board of Historic Pella Trust has decided to put the house at 1110 Washington Street up for sale. We hope to find a person willing to save one of the early settler's homes. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is available for both Federal and State Historic tax credits to help offset restoration costs.

Speaking of real estate now may be the time to look for that historic home. There are a number of interesting historic homes on the market at prices that are down somewhat from the peak of a couple years ago.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting and wishing you a great spring and Tulip Time, as Pella welcome visitors to our historic city. Remember it is important to preserve our architectural history for ourselves and our visitors.

Thank you, Wayne Stienstra, President



Annual Meeting

April 22, 2010 at 7:30 pm at Pella's Opera House

Brian Browning, Administrator of preservation work at Terrace Hill.

Historic Pella Trust Board members look forward to seeing you there!

Historic Pella Trust Project Update!

- Rock House - No issues – Rented
- Soul Sleeper's Church (Used Book Store) Floor to be repaired this Spring
- Vander Veer House (1110 Washington St.) Will be put on the market to sell this spring.
- Old City Hall: Conservation Easement in place

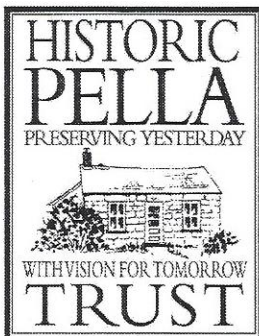
Copies of Historic Pella Trust
'Architectural Tour of Early Historic Pella'
Available at the following businesses:

The Variety Store
The Amsterdam Hotel
De Pelikaan
Boat's Furniture
Vande Lune Fabric
Cammie's Place
Ulrich's Meat market
Vander Ploeg Bakery
Jaarsma's Bakery
In't Veld Meat Market
Holiday Inn Motel
Country Inn Motel
Comfort Inn Motel
Smoky Row

Historical Windmill and Village
The Scholte House Museum

Please patronize these Pella businesses !
When you pick up a copy, stop and say
thanks for their generosity.

2010/2011 Board of Directors
Wayne Stienstra, President
Ellie Gosselink, Vice-President
Newsletter Editor
Davis Folkerts, Secretary
Bob Klein –Treasurer –Historian
Bobby Klein – Treasurer
Dody Boat
Wilma Den Besten
Liz Epperly
Sallie DeReus
Ralph Jaarsma
Duane Rempe
Ron Rietveld
Harold Schnedler
Liza Zylstra



HISTORIC PELLA TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ email address _____

Levels of Membership

_____ special preservationist	\$ _____
_____ Benefactor Membership	\$500
_____ Patron Membership	\$250
_____ Sustaining Membership	\$100
_____ Family Membership	\$50
_____ Single Membership	\$25
_____ Senior Membership	\$20
_____ Business Membership	\$75

Thank you!

If you are giving the above-named person this membership as a gift, please include your name and address here: _____

_____ Please check here if you would like to volunteer